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AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN



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Illinois Department of Public Aid
Gregory L. Coler, Director

Aid to Families With Dependent Children

Gives You a Chance, Not Just A Check

YOUR CHILDREN ARE YOUR GREATEST CONCERN and Public Aid knows that. Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) can help you if you have children and need help supporting them.



The law says you and your children may receive help if your children are deprived of financial support or care because of physical or mental incapacity, unemployment of a parent for reasons such as death, divorce, separation, and imprisonment.

GO TO YOUR PUBLIC AID OFFICE TO APPLY. A caseworker will give you an application and tell you more about AFDC. You can bring someone to help you fill out the application if you want. If you are physically unable to come to the office, a caseworker can send the application to your home.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AFDC? A number of rules and regulations spell out eligibility standards for the AFDC Program. For instance:

- A child receiving assistance must be living with a "blood" relative in the relative's home;
- A child must be under 18 to receive AFDC; or be 18 and a full-time student in high school or vocational school who will finish school before reaching 19;
- Children 16 or over who are not in school full-time may be eligible if they register for the WIN Demonstration Program;

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- To receive AFDC, you must either be a U.S. citizen or an alien lawfully admitted to the country. Persons living in the U.S. under color of law are also eligible.
- People participating in a strike are not eligible. If the person on strike is the parent of the children, the entire case is ineligible.

Your income helps Public Aid determine if you are eligible.

If your income from earnings, pensions, insurance benefits, contributions, lump sum payments, or other sources is less than the Public Aid payment level, you may be eligible for AFDC.

After you fill out your application, the Department of Public Aid will determine whether or not you qualify for AFDC payments. This usually takes about 45 days. In order for the Department to do this, you'll need to provide the following items:

- Rent receipts;
- Social Security numbers of you and your children;
- Statement of wages;
- Savings account passbook;
- Utility bills;
- Birth certificates of you and your children.

Public Aid caseworkers will determine your eligibility the first time you apply for AFDC. They will recheck your eligibility at least every six months thereafter.

Not all of your assets are counted.

Some of your assets are not considered when

your family's eligibility for AFDC is determined. Assets not counted include:

- A home that is your family's usual residence;
- Clothing and personal effects;
- Household furnishings;
- One motor vehicle worth \$1,500 or less;
- Additionally, your family may have other assets or personal property including cash worth up to \$1,000.

If you are eligible for AFDC . . .

You will receive a monthly AFDC check from the Department. This check will vary in amount, depending upon the number of children you have and your place of residence.

Your AFDC check will be mailed to your home or sent to a local currency exchange. See your caseworker to find out where your check will go. If you think the cash amount of your check is wrong, let your caseworker know immediately.

How AFDC gives you a chance

Your AFDC check helps to provide for you and your children. If you receive AFDC, you may also get help through other Public Aid supported programs, including:

- Day care;
- Food Stamps;
- Medical Assistance;
- Family Planning Services.

Special brochures are available that explain these programs. Your caseworker can tell you about these programs, too.

- The Right to Appeal and to Receive a Fair Hearing (DPA 377)
- Public Aid & Civil Rights (DPA 592)
- Responsible Relatives (DPA 53)

AFDC can also help you with special needs

The Department of Public Aid also provides assistance payments to meet certain special needs. Payments which may be authorized include the cost of a therapeutic diet for



a diabetic, an allowance for a junior or senior in high school, day care for children of elementary or secondary school parents, and day care for employment when the caretaker relative is not the parent and is not receiving AFDC. A separate written request must be made to receive these special need payments.

If you are rendered homeless because of fire or flood, if you've been evicted, or if you've lost money or had it stolen, you may qualify for help through the Crisis Assistance Program. The Crisis Assistance Program is designed to meet extraordinary or unusual needs not provided in the AFDC grant.

Public Aid will also pay funeral and burial expenses in some cases. See your caseworker for details.

AFDC can lead to a job.

All AFDC cases, except those considered exempt, are registered with the WIN Demonstration Project (WDP). This program can help you find a job or provide training that can lead to employment. For more information, talk with your caseworker or see the special WIN program brochure.

If you already have a job, you still may be eligible for AFDC. A portion of your earnings will not be counted when the amount of your grant is figured. Your caseworker can explain rules regarding income you earn, and income you receive in lump sums.

If you receive AFDC, there are requirements you must follow.

For example:

- **Child Support.** You must help the Department obtain child support payments where child support has been ordered by a court. If you receive AFDC you must agree to sign such payments over to the Department. Your caseworker can explain this to you in detail.
- **Changes of Address.** When you move to a different address you must report your new address to the local public aid office. The post office will not forward AFDC checks to new addresses.
- **Information.** You have the primary responsibility of furnishing information which the Department needs to determine your eligibility for AFDC. If you are unable to obtain the information without cost or hardship, seek help from your caseworker. Full information must be given about assets, income, and means of support at the time you apply. Any change in circumstances must be reported within five working days. This includes changes in family size, amount of income, and type of assets.
- **Appointments.** You must keep all appointments and receive any medical examination that is required.
- **You must report to the Department every month.** Persons with the following case

situations must file a report on household circumstances and income each month: families with earned income, families receiving AFDC for a child 18 years of age, families with Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, or whose UI benefits have ended in one of the last three months.

You will be sent a report form to complete, sign and return to the Public Aid office by a specific due date each month.

If you have income from employment, you; must report and provide proof of the amount of pay you receive each month. The information must be received by the end of the monthly



due date. If you fail without good cause to report income by the due date, you will not be eligible to receive the income disregard for employment expenses or the earned income exemption and day care deduction for that month.

A family receiving more aid than it is entitled to is required by law to pay back the amount of any overpayment made by the Department. If the money is not repaid, the State may take legal action to recover it or deduct it from future assistance payments.

If it is determined that the Department did not pay you all of the assistance to which you were entitled, you will be issued a check for the amount of the underpayment.

Laws regarding appeals, fair hearings, civil rights, and support from relatives all affect recipients of AFDC. Ask your caseworker for information on these subjects. Brochures on these subjects are available at your Public Aid office.

Basic Amount Per Month*

Housing Costs

Family Size	Group I		Group II		Group III	
	No Adult	Adult	No Adult	Adult	No Adult	Adult
1	\$ 80	\$198	\$ 71	\$190	\$ 66	\$161
2	\$153	\$250	\$139	\$240	\$130	\$230
3	\$225	\$341	\$206	\$330	\$198	\$316
4	\$288	\$385	\$275	\$374	\$261	\$361
5	\$354	\$450	\$340	\$437	\$327	\$421
6	\$417	\$505	\$403	\$491	\$384	\$474
7	\$479	\$556	\$463	\$536	\$445	\$500
8	\$511	\$591	\$501	\$573	\$480	\$527
9	\$571	\$649	\$556	\$628	\$532	\$581
10	\$622	\$700	\$609	\$681	\$580	\$627
11	\$674	\$752	\$663	\$735	\$634	\$684
12	\$735	\$814	\$722	\$794	\$689	\$737

Differences in housing costs from county to county will be reflected in grants under the Illinois Consolidated Standard Plan

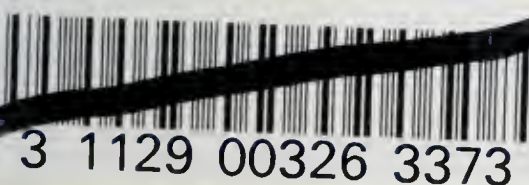
Group I/highest housing costs		
Boone	Kane	Ogle
Champaign	Kankakee	Whiteside
Cook	Kendall	Winnebago
DeKalb	Lake	Woodford
DuPage	McHenry	
Group II/lower housing costs		
Adams	Jo Daviess	Moultrie
Bureau	Knox	Peoria
Carroll	LaSalle	Piatt
Clinton	Lee	Pittman
Coles	Livingston	Rock Island
DeWitt	Logan	Sangamon
Douglas	Macon	St Clair
Effingham	Macoupin	Stephenson
Ford	Madison	Tazewell
Fullon	McDonough	Vermilion
Grundy	McLean	Wabash
Henry	Mercer	Warren
Iroquois	Monroe	Will
Jackson	Morgan	
Group III/lowest housing costs		
Alexander	Hamilton	Pike
Bond	Hancock	Pope
Brown	Hardin	Pulaski
Calhoun	Henderson	Randolph
Cass	Jasper	Richland
Christian	Jefferson	Saline
Clark	Jersey	Schuyler
Clay	Johnson	Scott
Crawford	Lawrence	Shelby
Cumberland	Marion	Stark
Edgar	Marshall	Union
Edwards	Mason	Washington
Fayette	Massac	Wayne
Franklin	Menard	White
Gallatin	Montgomery	Williamson
Greene	Perry	



Fraud. Under Illinois law, persons who make false statements or who willfully deceive and misrepresent their circumstances to the Department or persons who willfully fail to report changes in income, property or need which affect the amount of assistance they are entitled to are subject to penalties.

Persons found guilty of fraud will be required to repay the State the amount of assistance received and, in addition, may be fined, imprisoned, or both. Anyone who helps or encourages misrepresentation of a case by any means is, by law, also guilty of fraud.

The Illinois Department of Public Aid does not discriminate in admission to, or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, the U.S. Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, and the U.S. Constitution.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, call or visit your
local Public Aid office, or write to:

Illinois Department of Public Aid
316 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62762

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